

[6th November 1930]

Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandiyan.
 „ G. Sriramulu.
 „ M. S. Sreshta.
 „ T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
 Rao Sahib P. Subrahmanya Chetti.
 Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatta.
 „ T. Sundara Rao Nayudu.
 Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
 Khan Sahib Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur.
 Mr. Daniel Thomas.
 „ V. G. Vasudeva Pillai.
 „ M. Vedachala Mudaliyar.
 „ K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
 „ K. C. M. Venkatachala Reddiyar.
 Rao Sahib Badeti Venkataramayya.
 Rao Bahadur R. K. Venugopal Nayudu.
 Mr. H. A. Watson.
 Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur.
 Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.

III.—ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—“ The next item on the programme is the election of a President. Under rule 5-A, sub-section (3), of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I have to read out to the Council the names of Members who have been duly nominated together with those of their proposers and seconders. I will read out the names accordingly. There are two candidates—Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi and Mr. Yakub Hasan. The proposers of Mr. Ramachandra Reddi are the hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu, the Raja of Bobbili, Mr. Kesava Ramamurti, the hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiar, and Mr. D. V. Narasimhaswami. The seconders are Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar, Kumara-raja of Venkatagiri, Mr. P. Subrahmanyam Chetti, the hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan and Mr. Daniel Thomas. The other candidate, Mr. Yakub Hassan, is proposed by Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar and seconded by Mr. K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.”

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ Under Standing Order 34, I move that the business of the House be adjourned.”

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN :—“ The Leader of the Opposition has intimated to me of his intention to move this adjournment motion and after consideration I have decided that the motion is in order.”

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ In doing so, Mr. Chairman, I am not moving this motion with any view to obstruct the proceedings of the House. I am only doing it to point out that we could have arrived at a unanimous election if some steps had been taken to bring together the various Leaders of Parties, because the Opposition is led out only by myself—though it may form a major part of the Opposition—but there are other Members who belong neither to the party in power nor to my own party. The hon. the Chief Minister had the courtesy to telephone to me last Thursday evening that his party had decided to put up Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi. Besides this, he went no further. Again,

6th November 1930] [Dr. P. Subbarayan]

yesterday morning, the hon. the Chief Minister was kind enough to see me and say that they were going to go on with the election of Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi. I could not say anything to that as I had to consult the leading Members of the Opposition. I only wish to point out, Mr. Chairman, that it could have been possible to achieve the unanimous election of the President, if the hon. the Chief Minister, or the Leader of the House, had taken steps to bring together not only myself, but other Members of the Opposition who do not belong to my group, for consultation. We were undecided for the simple reason that the President ought to be above all parties. If previous consultation had been made, it would have been quite possible to bring about the unanimous election of the President. Even now, I feel that it is not too late to do so."

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur seconded the motion.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have formally to oppose this motion. My hon. Colleague, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, will reply."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"No one regrets more than I the difficulty of getting unanimity in regard to the election of the President. Sir, the question as to who should be the President was discussed for the first time by the Leader of the Opposition with me in my room after I was appointed Chief Minister and he said that at the party meeting of their members they decided that three of the members should be put up for being considered by me. I mentioned to him that I wanted to consult my party and on the 30th evening we had an informal consultation of such of the members of my party as were in Madras and we decided to put up a candidate on behalf of the party. That evening I phoned to the Leader of the Opposition, but I could not get at him. Next morning I phoned again and told him what our party was thinking of. I was to leave Madras that day for Chittoor and I told him that I would see him as soon as I returned. He told me that he had to consult his party. The nomination to the election of the President had to be filed before 12 noon on the 5th and their meeting was, I understand, arranged to take place at 3 o'clock after the hour of nomination fixed was over. He himself had to go to Coimbatore. I returned on the 4th and he returned from Coimbatore yesterday. I saw him to ascertain if any name on my side would be agreeable to him. He merely said he would like to consult his party. There was no suggestion from him to me that any name was acceptable or of any method by which unanimity could be reached. He has now said that he does not represent all the groups. So far as other members are concerned, I also formally consulted Mr. Arokiaswami Mudaliyar who was the leader of a group in the last Council, and he also said that he had to consult his own party men. They did not object to the name I suggested nor did they give any other name. In these circumstances, we could not come to an unanimity. If my hon. Friend had only showed me a way, I should have been only too glad to do it."

[6th November 1930]

11-45
a.m.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am afraid the House has not been satisfied, at least this part of the House has not been satisfied, with the explanation formally made by the Leader of the House and informally made by the hon. the Chief Minister, Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu, with regard to the negotiation that seemed to have been gone through in order to bring about an unanimous election of the President.

"Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is regrettable that the Leader of the House, whose responsibility it is, according to all canons of Parliamentary practice, to have moved in the matter, should not have sought to bring about an unanimous election. I am afraid there are no evidences to show that such attempts were ever made by the Leader of the House. It is only the Chief Minister, who is the Leader of the Party in power, who has according to him made certain attempts to bring about what he regarded to be a common understanding regarding the election of the President. But the facts are, according to what we know, that the hon. the Chief Minister seems to have offered the Presidentship to only one individual, and that is Dr. Subbarayan himself. (A voice: 'Is it so?') I believe so, Sir. Whether it was intended only for Dr. Subbarayan or for anybody else in the Opposition is a question which has to be ascertained. It seems from all facts that are well-known to us that the offer was made only to Dr. Subbarayan. Then the Nationalist party met and decided at their meeting that it was not advisable that Dr. Subbarayan should take up the Presidentship and that we should put up three other names on behalf of the party. If it was intended that we should put forward only one candidate from this side, we would have done so. But it was our desire that we should negotiate with the other parties and bring about a common understanding with regard to the candidate. Well, we suggested three names, and Dr. Subbarayan was asked to negotiate with the Chief Minister. From what we know, the Chief Minister was advised to take all those three names into consideration. Under such circumstances, Sir, I do not think that the hon. the Chief Minister was correct in saying that he explored all possibilities of bringing into existence a common understanding between all the parties in the House. Sir, he said that our party meeting was to be held some time after the time fixed for the nomination of the candidates. I do not think that was after all an impediment. For, if the hon. the Chief Minister had a mind to negotiate with a view to bringing about a common understanding, he could have done so even after the nominations had been filed. There was time enough, and he could have met the leaders and come to a decision, and thus we could have come to some understanding. Well, that was not done. Now, under such circumstances, I do think it is advisable in the interests of the whole House, and I may also say that it will be fair, if the gentleman who is going to occupy the Chair is elected unanimously. It may be that the whole House may agree to the election of my hon. Friend, Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, but to be fair to all concerned I would say that the whole House must unanimously agree to his election. It would not be a complete satisfaction to him if he is to be elected only by a certain section, and certainly it would be unjust to the other parties of the House if the party in power should think that they can carry on

6th November 1930] [Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan]

the election of their candidate by the sheer weight of numbers on their side. It is certainly not a proper policy for the party in power to follow. Therefore, Sir, in the interest of the whole House as well as that of the gentleman who is to be the President of this august body, we should come to some understanding in the matter, and if we would agree upon one name for the election of the President and unanimously elect him as the President, he will earn the confidence of the whole House, as he is to be above all parties. If that is the object of the House, the only method that we have to resort to is to adjourn the business of the House and come to some understanding among all parties. I would therefore request the Leader of the House to perform the duty of taking into his confidence all the leaders of parties, so that the election may be made on a common understanding, and if we then agree to have Mr. Ramachandra Reddi himself, he will be elected unanimously as President of this House."

* Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA:—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, unfortunately or fortunately I am not in the confidence of any leader of any of the parties in this Council. As a nominated Member of this House, my views are absolutely unbiased about this controversy that has been going on between the Leader of the Party in power and the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Subbarayan. Well, Sir, one of the chief points that has been made out by the Leader of the Opposition is this: that the President ought to be above all parties. An hon. Member becomes a non-party man when he becomes the President. Suppose I am chosen by the unanimous consent of the leaders of the so-called parties to be the President. (Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar made an interruption which was not audible.) I suppose I have got as much chance as Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar (laughter). If I am chosen as the President, I go out of the party to which I belonged, and I cease to be a party man, not until then. So, all this talk, all this controversy about the label of any particular hon. Member is absolutely beside the point. There are parliamentary precedents to show that the party in power has to show the inherent right, the absolute right, to set up a candidate of its own for the Presidential Chair. Under these circumstances, I do not think it will serve any useful purpose to have consultations. Consultation means only endless talk and no conclusion. I therefore oppose this adjournment motion."

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN:—"I take it that the House is ready for a vote. The question is—

'That the business of the House be adjourned.'"

The motion was negatived.

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. Chairman, in view of the decision of the House, I shall now request Mr. Yakub Hasan to withdraw his candidature, so that we may have an unanimous election of the President."

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. Chairman, at the request of the Leader of my Party, I withdraw my candidature."

[6th November 1930]

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN:—"Mr. Yakub Hasan having withdrawn his candidature, there is now only one candidate for the Presidentship, Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, and I hereby declare him elected unanimously as President of this Council. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi's name will now be submitted to His Excellency the Governor for approval under section 72-C of the Government of India Act. I understand that His Excellency is now in the Secretariat, and if hon. Members will remain in their seats for a while, they will probably be able to hear an announcement before very long."

At this stage, His Excellency the Governor's approval was sought and obtained.

* The hon. the CHAIRMAN:—"I have great pleasure in announcing to the Council that His Excellency the Governor has approved of the election of Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi to be the President of this Council. It only now remains for me to tender to the hon. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi my sincere congratulations, and I call upon him to occupy the Presidential Chair."

The President-elect was then conducted to the Chair by the hon. the Leader of the House and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

The hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI (before taking the Chair):—"I tender my hearty thanks and sincere acknowledgment of the high honour conferred by this House on me."

The hon. the President then occupied the Chair amidst applause.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, it is my most pleasing duty to-day to offer our warmest congratulations to you on your unanimous election as the President of this august Assembly. For this happy result, we are very much indebted to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Subbarayan, who induced Mr. Yakub Hasan to withdraw his candidature.

"You, Sir, are not a stranger to this House, having been here for the last seven years, having taken a very active part in its deliberations and, may I be permitted to say, having very often indulged in hearty laughs whenever the Government suffered a defeat in this House? (Laughter). To-day, you have been called upon by your fellow Members to occupy the exalted and dignified position of the President of this Assembly, the highest honour in the gift of this House. I am sure you will discharge the duties of your office with great ability, impartiality and fairness and follow in the footsteps of your distinguished predecessors and thus maintain the high traditions of your office. As the Leader of the House, it will be my duty, very often to meet you outside this Council Chamber, and whenever those occasions arise, I shall always feel that I shall be meeting a gentleman of pleasant manners, cheerful temperament and optimistic views. I have very great pleasure in wishing you a very successful term of office and in giving you the assurance of the whole-hearted co-operation of this House in the discharge of your arduous duties."

6th November 1930]

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. President, it is now my very pleasant duty to congratulate you on your election unanimously to the Presidential Chair. I am sure, now you have become detached from all parties in this House and you will fulfil your duties according to the custom of all Presidents who have occupied the Chair before you. I have no doubt whatever, from my experience of you personally, that you will fill the Chair honourably and well, and do your best to maintain the high traditions that have been set up by your predecessors in the Chair. On behalf of myself and the Members of the Opposition I have great pleasure in congratulating you and wishing you godspeed as President of this House."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, I join the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in offering you my felicitations on your election, unanimously, to the high office of Chairman of this House."

"Sir, I had the privilege of being associated with you for the last seven years as a Member of this House and as a member of my party as well. The chorus of approval that has been elicited from both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition shows, Sir, that, in putting you up as probably the best man we had for this high office, we were justified. I am sure, Sir, you will be able to discharge the duties of this high office with the greatest success. I have nothing more to say than to repeat that we wish you success in the splendid career before you."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to congratulate you on the honour conferred upon you by the Members of this House. This House is habituated to look upon the Chair with very great reverence and respect for the simple reason that its occupants have distinguished themselves by their independent and impartial conduct in their dealings with party tactics generally adopted in assemblies of this kind. We almost worship that Chair and sometimes that worship amounts to idolatry; nay, several hon. Members who have inhibited this form of worship have also become unconscious followers of that form of worship of the Chair because of its hoary traditions. I have no doubt that you will follow the traditional precedents which are associated with the high seat which you have the honour to occupy from to-day."

"Sir, it is said that three qualities are necessary to enable a gentleman to occupy the Presidentship of a Parliamentary Assembly like ours. They are discreetness, wisdom and impartiality. You have already given ample proofs of the possession of the first two qualities, namely, discreetness and wisdom by your very rare participation in the proceedings of this Council. (Laughter.) As for the third quality, Sir, I greatly hope that it shall be our privilege to enjoy it at your hands. It may be perhaps a less arduous task for a person to be impartial than to convince others that he is impartial. On many occasions such of us who might feel that our particular line of tactics has not received that amount of encouragement which we might expect

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti] [6th November 1930]

personally are likely to feel offended at the rulings of the Chair, but those feelings, I hope, will be assuaged by the observance of continued impartiality by you. I wish you success."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. President, I have much pleasure to offer you my congratulations on your election to this high office. I have come to this Council after an absence of eleven years and therefore I have not the pleasure of knowing you as a Member of this House; but I am sure that when the Justice Party put you up for this high office they were convinced that you are one of the best people who are fitted for it. I have no doubt that you will carry on the traditions of the Chair in the past. I have the greatest pleasure to offer you my hearty congratulations."

Mr. N. SIVA RAJ:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the sentiments that have been expressed by various speakers in congratulating you on your unanimous election to the Presidential Chair. On my own behalf and on behalf of the small but important group in this House, namely, the depressed classes, I join in wishing you great success in the Presidential Chair. The hon. Member from Madras, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, doubted whether you possessed one of the necessary qualities that a President ought to possess and wanted to know whether you possessed that quality. (A voice: 'Did not doubt.') At any rate, he wished that you had that quality, namely, the quality of impartiality. I daresay that you have that quality in abundance for the simple reason that while the Justice Party was in power you were very strongly supporting that party and equally strongly in the Opposition when that party was in the Opposition during the last Council. Sir, we the members of the depressed classes will co-operate with you in every respect in making your position easy and your career as President a great success. We, however, expect you, Sir, on account of the comparative lack of knowledge on the part of the members of our group of the procedure of this House, to show your sympathy towards us by excusing us for any mistakes that we might commit and by granting us the necessary concessions.

"May I also add, Sir, in wishing you success, that in the opinion of some it may be that you are young and that youth will be an impediment in your case. But, Sir, I have always been of the opinion that youth is not necessarily a disqualification even for a higher office, (Hear, hear) particularly in these days when the youth is taking in its charge and control all the affairs of the State. Surely, therefore, it will be merely keeping with the times that you should be elected to this Chair especially when, as the various speakers have said, you possess just the qualities which are necessary and important for the position you occupy. With these words on behalf of the members of my group, I have very great pleasure in congratulating you on your unanimous election to the Chair."

Mr. D. THOMAS:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have very great pleasure in joining with the previous speakers in tendering to you our

6th November 1930] [Mr. D. Thomas]

most heartfelt congratulations on your unanimous election to this high office. The inherent dignity and prestige of the high office to which you have been elected to-day has been greatly enhanced and augmented by your predecessors. Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar, Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai, Professor Ratnaswami and last but not least Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju have adorned and filled worthily the Chair which you now occupy. They created noble and high traditions both as regards the conduct of business of this House and in the exercise of that gracious courtesy and high impartiality which make it a pleasure for the Members of this House to participate in its proceedings. I am sure, Sir, that you will faithfully and strenuously follow the footsteps of your noble predecessors and uphold and maintain and carry on those great and high and noble traditions.

“Those of us here who were Members also of the last Council are personally aware of the solid, but quiet and unobtrusive work that you did in that Council. Sincerity of purpose and illuminating commonsense and a quiet, silent and unobtrusive humour characterized all your utterances, and, in quietness and confidence you have sought and found strength and wisdom. I hope and trust, Sir, that your high qualities of head and heart will enable you to worthily discharge the high and responsible functions which pertain to your office and that before your term of office is over you will have added fresh lustre to your name as well as to the fair name of this House. I sincerely tender to you my heartfelt congratulations.”

* PANDIT GANALA RAMAMURTI:—“Mr. President, Sir, associating myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers, I congratulate you on your success and offer my felicitations on this memorable occasion. As an active member of the party in power during all the years of your public life, Sir, you worked for the betterment of the people at large of this Presidency. That your ancestors played an important part in the annals of the Andhra history is a fact known to every student of ancient history. Sir, the names of kings like Anavema Reddi and Veerabhadra Reddi and others are cherished even to-day as founders of dynasties and patrons of literature. The famous poet and philosopher, Vemanna, belongs to your community and, not only to your community, but to the whole Andhra country. The whole country is, therefore, proud of him. Sir, you, who belong to the abovesaid community renowned for its traditional capacity for administration, are now occupying the Presidential Chair at a young age, but I am confident that you would prove a successful President with your administrative knowledge as president of a taluk board and a district board and that with your ready wit and humour and character and good sense, you will give entire satisfaction to one and all in this House. I am also confident that under your able guidance the House will really be a happy family.

“May I suggest to you, Sir, and the hon. the Leader of the House in this connexion that you will both allow the usual practice of reading manuscript speeches? (Laughter.) May God the Almighty, during your

[Mr. G. Ramamurti]

[6th November 1930]

regime of office as President of this House, guide you to conduct the deliberations of the House with the traditional dignity of the Chair."

* Mr. H. F. P. HEARSON:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have already offered you my personal congratulations, but now I would like also to offer a few words of congratulation on behalf of the non-official European group. You have now become the ruler of this House; and we as a very small minority look to you as our protector (Laughter) and just as we look to you to do well by us, it is only fair that we should do, well by you, and I feel sure that the kindest thing that hon. Members of this Council can do for the President is to make their speeches brief." (Laughter.)

12-15
p.m. * Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I shall follow the advice given by the hon. Member who preceded me last and be brief in my remarks. I cordially associate myself with all the previous speakers in their expression of felicitation on your being elected to this high office. Hon. Members have referred to the Presidents who have held this office before you. I wish to refer especially to the very first President, Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar. I have known him intimately both before and after he occupied this exalted office. He was at one time bureaucrat of bureaucrats and yet it was a wonder to see how worthily he filled this Chair and how zealous he was in maintaining the dignity and independence of this House. I have no doubt that you would be no less zealous in maintaining the dignity of this House and dealing with all sections of the House in the manner your predecessors have been doing. Sir, some one referred to the fact that you are a member of the Justice party. You have been a strong member of that party and a very active member. But, to my mind, that is no disqualification to your being elevated to this high office. In fact, were it otherwise, I doubt very much whether you would have the proper men to this high office. I wish you success in your regime as President of this House."

Srimathi ALAMELUMANGATHAYARAMMAL spoke in Tamil as follows:—

"சென்னை சட்டசபைத்தலைவர் அவர்களே! தங்களை இந்த சென்னை சட்டசபைத்தலைவராக பல கட்சியினரும் ஏகமனதாய் அங்கீகாரம் செய்ததைப்பற்றி யான் பெருமகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறேன்.

"தாங்கள் இச்சட்டசபையில் கடந்த ஏழு வருஷங்களாக அங்கத்தினராய் இருந்துவந்திருக்கின்றீர். அதில் பல விதமான வேலைகளையும் மற்ற அங்கத்தினர்களோடு உலர்த்து செய்திருக்கின்றீர். ஜில்லா சபைத்தலைவராகவும் இருந்துவருகின்றீர். அதிலும் பல ஜாதிமதப்பேதமின்றி நன்மைகளைச் செய்திருக்கின்றீர்கள். இப்போதும் ஜஸ்டிஸ் கட்சியின் கொள்கையின்படியே எச்சாதியினருக்கும், எம்மதத்தினருக்கும், பொதுவில் எல்லாக் கட்சியினருக்கும், நீதியையும், நியாயத்தையும் இனியும் தங்கள் தலைமையின்கீழ் நடைபெறப்போகும் சட்டசபை நடவடிக்கைகளில் நடத்துவீர்களென்று நம்புகின்றேன்.

6th November 1930] [Srimathi Alamelumangathayarammal]

“எனக்கு முன்னர் பேசிய சிலர் சிறுவயதினர் என்று குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். தாங்கள் சிறுவயதினராயினும் ஞானத்தில் பெரியோரென்றே சொல்லவேண்டும். சென்னை சர்வகலாசாலை பட்டதாரியாயிருக்கின்றீர். கல்விச்செல்வத்தோடு பொருட்செல்வமும் நிறைந்தவர். அப்பேர்ப்பட்டவர் தலைமை ஸ்தானத்தை வகித்து நன்கு நடத்துவீர்களென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். என் சகோதர அங்கத்தினர்களும் அப்படியே நம்புவார்களென்று நினைக்கின்றேன்.

“தாங்கள் சட்டசபைத்தலைவர் ஸ்தானத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு நன்கு கடைபிடிமாறு எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவன் தங்களுக்கு நீடிய ஆயுளைத் தருமாறு வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

Mr. J. A. DAVIS:—“Mr. President, Sir, I, a single elected Member of the important Anglo-Indian community, associate myself with all that has been said by the previous speakers. I hope that you will give special privileges to that single member of the Anglo-Indian community. With these words I offer you very sincere congratulations.”

KUMARARAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—“Mr. President, Sir, as a Member representing the constituency which you also represent, as a zamindar in his individual capacity and as a member of the party which has emerged so successfully from the recent elections, I rise to congratulate you on your assumption of this office of immense responsibility and high dignity. It is not necessary on my part to enumerate the duties that devolve upon you. Suffice it to say that in the discharge of your duties you would observe and follow the high traditions established by your predecessors. Whenever the tradition comes into conflict with the duty that devolves upon you, viz., the interests of the country and the smooth running of the administration, you have to establish a new tradition. Further, it gives me great pleasure when I consider the fact that you, Sir, who were the Chairman of the Reception Committee that was held in Nellore, are to occupy the Chair of this august Assembly and that the President of that Confederation is to be the Chief Minister of this Province. I have no doubt, Sir, that, when you lay down your office, you would have increased your hold upon the affection and regard of all parts of this House.”

* Mr. V. G. VASUDEVA PILLAI:—“Mr. President, Sir, I have very great pleasure in associating myself with all that has been said. I rise to supplement the remarks made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Siva Raj. My acquaintance with you is of a recent character, but from information gathered I find, Sir, that you have been the president of a taluk board, that you are the present President of the Nellore District Board, that you have been for four years a member of the District Educational Council and that you have been for seven years a Member of this Council. Above all, I learn that your sincerity of purpose, your simplicity of character, your fearless independence and your sympathies with the poor and the depressed have won you

[Mr. V. G. Vasudeva Pillai] [6th November 1930]

the hearts of all those with whom you come in contact. With such qualities held by you, it is no wonder that you have been called upon to occupy the Presidential Chair at a comparatively young age. Experienced as you are, I have no doubt, Sir, that you will occupy the Chair with credit to yourself and credit to your constituency. I have no doubt that your rulings and decisions as President of the Council will be full of wisdom and full of wide experience. Although you must rise now above all parties, yet you belong to a party which has rendered yeoman service to the depressed classes. The progress that has been made by my community during the last ten years has been due to that party and that party alone. But for the bold stand which the leaders of that party had made before the Parliamentary Committee in England, representation on such a large scale to the depressed classes on the Legislative Council would not have been secured. As a result of the Reforms, Sir, the Justice Ministry came to power and it was those Ministers that were responsible for the large number of representatives of the depressed classes throughout the length and breadth of this Presidency on the municipal councils and local boards.

“Coming to the nominations, Sir, I have to say just a word. I think I am echoing the sentiments and the feelings of my community when I say that the Labour Commissioner, the hon. Leader of the House, Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib and His Excellency the Governor deserve the hearty congratulations of the community and their loyal thanks. I do not wish to say anything further on this subject. But this much I must remark. At the last Corporation meeting, my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, propounded a new theory, that the Brahmans are a new depressed class. If, within ten years of the inception of the non-Brahman movement, the Brahmans have been reduced to such a state of affairs, imagine for yourself what will be the condition of the depressed classes who have been, for ages, kept in bondage; and therefore I appeal to you, as President of this Council, to do all in your power to do something for the depressed classes.”

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“Mr. President, permit me, Sir, to associate myself with the congratulations that have just been offered to you by so many of the hon. Members of this House. Although I cannot claim to have enjoyed your personal friendship, nevertheless I may assure you, Sir, that your elevation to the Woolsack of this House has pleased none so much as it has pleased me. Representing as I do, a community—by community I do not mean the Reddi, Nayudu, Mudaliyar, or even the Brahman and non-Brahman communities—I mean the Community of Youth, I am extremely glad that you have this day captured one of the strongest citadels of monopolistic age. You know, Sir, wisdom and experience are considered the sole monopoly of age; and consequently the Woolsack in Legislative Bodies all over the world is invariably offered to grey-haired gentlemen. By your election to-day to the Presidential Chair of this House, you have broken that monopoly; and may I hope it is for once and for ever.

6th November 1930]

[Mr. V. T. Arasu]

"The hon. Members who preceded me have tendered you a bit of advice each. I am not going to do anything of the kind. For I am confident of the prowess of youth to rise up to occasions and discharge its duties with as much care and diligence as senile age itself, if not better. Only one request I have to make, and that is, that you should be considerate and even generous towards the youthful section of this House. When I ask you to be considerate, I am not pleading for any special favour or any special privileges. All that I am asking for is, if I may be permitted to use the slogan of the European Association of India, 'a fair field and no favour.' Lastly, congratulating you once again, I hope and trust that you will hold aloft the banner of youth."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will kindly allow me to offer my thanks once again for having profusely congratulated me and for having unanimously confided in me. I am conscious of my deficiencies, and I am also conscious of the great responsibilities entrusted to this Chair. I only request the hon. Members of this House, to recognize their responsibilities also and make the position of the Chair easy. I have been in this Council for the last seven years and have had the peculiar privilege of observing very closely the tact and ability with which the four illustrious Presidents that preceded me have conducted the business of this House. Further, hon. Members of this House have been uniformly courteous, in their conduct, to the Chair. With such high traditions and valuable conventions, I do not feel at all disheartened to occupy this Chair and to try to conduct the business of this House. All that I request is that you should offer your co-operation, so that I may endeavour to deserve your confidence and also to maintain the dignity of this House as well as its discipline.

12-30
p.m.

"I need not mention that from this moment, I belong to no party. (Hear, hear.)

"Mention has been made that the nominated Members of this House should be given the usual advantage of reading out manuscript speeches. I only request them that they should make those speeches as interesting and as short as other speeches in this Council.

"I once again thank you all for having conferred on me this high honour and request your co-operation.

"The Council will now adjourn and meet at 11 a.m. on the 18th November 1930."

The House accordingly adjourned at 12-35 p.m.

IV—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

a 1. G.O. No. 245, Finance, dated 1st April 1930, communicating the corrections in the First Edition of the Civil Budget Estimates for 1930-31.

a 2. G.O. No. 434, Development, dated 25th February 1930, recording the audit report on the accounts of the Government Industrial Institute (Ink Factory), Madras, for the period ending 30th November 1929.